

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the teleconference of July 6, 2007 and the indication of allowance of claims 27-25, 48-51, 55-57, 136 and 138-153. Claims 2-26, 36-47, 52-54 and 58-134 stand withdrawn from consideration. As discussed in the July 6 teleconference, in which the pending allowance of claim 51 was discussed, applicants propose for the Examiner's consideration amendments to several of the withdrawn claims such that they depend from claim 51. In addition, applicants propose withdrawing the restriction requirement with regard to several withdrawn claims in view of the pending allowance of claim 51 and its generic coverage with respect to several species. Accordingly, claims 2-134, 136, 138-153 are currently pending. Entry of this supplemental amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the "structure," "first means," "metallic disc annulus;" and "second means," as recited in claim 51, render claim 51 generic at least with respect to the species embodied in any one of figures: (i) FIGS. 3A-3F; (ii) FIGS. 4A-4E; (iii) FIGS. 5A-5F; (iv) FIGS. 6A-6F; (v) FIGS. 8A-8F; and (vi) FIGS. 12A-12E. Withdrawn dependent claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 15 have been amended so as to depend from independent claim 51 and are presented for the Examiner's reconsideration. In view of the claim amendments and the Examiner's allowance of claim 51, applicants submit that the restriction with regard to claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 15 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed. MPEP 821.04 (a).

In addition, because independent claim 51 generically reads upon at least the species identified above, applicants submit that the restriction requirement with regard to withdrawn independent claims 58, 62, 66, 69, 72, 78, 81, and 84 should be withdrawn and the claims reconsidered. Like claim 51, independent claims 58, 62, 66, 69, 72, 78, 81, and 84 read upon one or more of the species embodied in (i) FIGS. 3A-3F; (ii) FIGS. 4A-4E; (iii) FIGS. 5A-

5F; (iv) FIGS. 6A-6F; (v) FIGS. 8A-8F; and (vi) FIGS. 12A-12E. Specifically, independent claim 58 reads upon the embodiment shown in FIGS. 4A-4E; independent claim 62 reads upon FIGS. 5A-5F; independent claim 66 reads upon FIGS. 6A-6F; independent claim 72 reads upon FIGS. 8A-8F, and independent claim 84 reads upon FIGS. 12A-12E. Independent claims 69, 78, 81 and 78 recite features that can be embodied in embodiments covered by independent claim 51. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request for the restriction requirement with regard to independent claims 58, 62, 66, 69, 72, 78, 81, 84 and the claims respectively depending therefrom be withdrawn and the claims reconsidered.

Finally, claims 36-47 depend directly or indirectly from allowed independent claim 152. Claims 40, 41, 42, 44 have been amended accordingly to provide appropriate antecedent basis. Because claims 36-47 depend from allowed claim 152, claims 36-47 should be reconsidered and allowed. MPEP 821.04 (a).

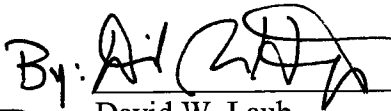
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the prompt allowance of at least claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 15, 27-47, 48-51, 55-74, 78-86, 136, and 138-153. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-3081. **This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).**

Respectfully submitted,

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